

December 13, 1964

Dr. Avram Goldstein
Department of Pharmacology
Harvard Medical School
Boston 15, Mass.

Dear Avram:

Thank you for your invitation to the panel discussion at the Pharmacology Society. Much as I would like to visit San Francisco again, however, I was not planning to attend the Federation meetings, and could not conveniently arrange to do so now.

I appreciate your interest in genetic transduction, and wish I could suggest an alternative speaker. However, I am not sure what you have in mind as the connection between this topic and the biochemical basis of acquired(?) resistance.

May I ask a question that perhaps implies a suggestion? Is anything known of the basis of acquired resistance to drugs as seen in mammals? I would like to learn more about the entire topic, but have been frustrated by my inability to find any substantial literature to back up the textbooks' generalizations about it, i.e., the statement that tolerance may develop to any of a number of drugs. I realize that the problem with opiates and barbiturates is as obscure as it is pressing. Do you know of any work on tolerance to any other agent that offers any hint of the mechanisms that may be operating? (Cf. Mohanty, Nature 7/24/54).

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics